H. H. THE MAHARAJA

OF

KAPURTHALA'S TOUR

IN NETHERLAND INDIA

AND

MALAY PENINSULA

September—October,

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HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF KAPURTHALA.

the Galle Face Hotel for lunch.

In the afternoon, I left by train in a special observation saloon car for Kandy, a delightful place about 70 miles from Colombo. The journey from Colombo to Kandy is uphill, but very romantic and picturesque, and our train meandered through green rice fields, coconut and banana trees, tea plants and small hills From the train, we had a magnificent view of the Adam's Rock which according to mythology was the resting-place of Adam. The valley down below is famous for the bloody battle fought between the English and the Ceylonese and particularly for the fact that the Ceylonese rolled heavy boulders down the hill into the valley and caused wholesale havoc among the ranks of the invading army.

Kandy is situated at a height of 2,500 ft., and it is bordered by a beautiful lake while the country around is interspersed with small hills The world-famous Botanical Gardens of Kandy are laid out on the banks of the Mahabali Ganga (the Mighty Ganges).

Next day accompanied by Sirdar Jarmani Dass, O.B.E., my Household Minister, I lunched with His Excellency the Governor and Lady Thompson at the Government House, which is enchantingly situated on a small hill in the midst of a beautiful garden and is a fine double-storeyed building of great magnificence.

On Wednesday, the 31st of August, I left Kandy by 2 P. M train and reached Colombo at 5 o'clock in the evening After stopping one night at Galle Face Hotel, I sailed on the 1st of September on a Dutch steamer "S. S John Van Oldenbarnevelt" captained by Commander Julsing. The Dutch Consul at Colombo came on board the ship to greet me on behalf of the Dutch Government. The Commander and other Officers of the Ship had special instructions from the Dutch Government to make me comfortable on board the steamer, and they were all very courteous and attentive to me and my staff A dinner and dance party was given by the Officers in my honour, and I appreciated and enjoyed their hospitality very considerably. In return I entertained them to a dinner.

The passage was very smooth and pleasant and the Commander besides leaving no stone unturned to make us feel at home, presented me and my staff with small souvenirs.

Sebang.

The steamer called at Sebang on the 4th of September. It is a small and beautiful island off Sumatra, and is an important coaling station for Dutch Naval Service. The "Controleur" and the representatives of the Governor of Sumatra came on board the ship to welcome me, and placed their cars at my disposal. I went ashore and had a look round for a few hours in the morning and greatly enjoyed my drive and the bracing morning breeze of this tropical islet. Our next port of call was Belawan Deli in Sumatra, where we arrived on the morning of the 5th September. The Assistant Resident came on the deck to receive me and accompanied me to the pier. We motored to Medan which is at a distance of 20 miles from Belawan Deli.

Belawan Deli.

Medan is a beautiful town and is the residence of

the Sultan of Deli who is a semi-independent Prince under the Dutch Government. Indians seem to flourish here; some have taken to trading, while others have taken up service as chowkidars and manual labourers.

The overpowering beauty of Sumatra's primeval nature attracts people to this land and the interior of the country furnishes to a shikari plenty of big game *i. e.* tigers, elephants and other wild animals. The native population live in queer houses built on piles of wood resembling a scaffold with tremendous roofs and elaborate wooden carvings and vivid colours, and the whole structure presents the look of a large-sized "machan". Cattle breeding, rice culture, and some native industries are the chief sources of income of the Sumatrans. The roads of Medan are beautiful and the streets are lined with shops belonging to merchants of several nationalities.

At each port, Indians came to welcome me on board the steamer as well as the Representatives (Residents) of the Governor General of the Dutch Indies, and the number increased to several

hundreds on my arrival in Singapore where we called on the 6th of September at 12 in the noon. The representative of the Governor and the Colonial Secretary also greeted me, and the group of Indians contained several subjects of my own State. I lunched at Raffles Hotel, and at 4-30 in the afternoon we sailed for Java.



Landing in Batavia.

JAVA.

Batavia.

On the 8th of September in the morning we disembarked at Tandjong Priok, a port 15 miles away from Batavia, and immediately proceeded to Batavia, the Capital of Java. Batavia's charming modern quarter is Weltevreden which boasts of a first-rate Medical College where the instruction course runs to 7 years

I stopped in Batavia at Hotel Des Indes. I found the hotels in Java more modern and uptodate than in India, though at the time of my last visit to this country 29 years ago the roads and hotels in this land were mediocre I paid a visit to the Parliament called the "Volksraad" (Legislative Assembly), and the local Museum which contains numerous relics of Buddhist and Hindu times, and beautiful gold and silver work from Bali. The population of Batavia is 5,50,000 out of which there are 50,000 Europeans, mostly Dutch, and a large number of Chinese The Bazars are clean and tidy ; flies, beggars, and dust are almost absent.

The European women are dressed in the latest French fashions, but men do not take the trouble of dressing for dinner or dance. Although these places are quite near the Equator, sunstroke is unknown and Europeans walk bare-headed in the sun. I was struck to see huge Banks, and uptodate Cinemas, where talkies in almost all European languages were installed. I also visited the Aquarium that contained sea animals and fish varieties of the tropical waters.

I visited, accompanied by Mr. Fitzmaurice, the British Consul-General, the Javanese Peoples' Council. This representative body was instituted in 1916, and has acquired an advisory function. It consists of a President appointed by the Dutch Crown and sixty members, partly elected and partly nominated. Of this assembly the representatives of the native Kingdoms and Principalities (Vorslenlanden) are also members. The discussion on that day was on a Bill for the increase of taxation on tobacco which the Government proposed to levy in order to adjust the Budget, which, owing to the general

depression in trade and other reasons, showed a deficit of 40 per cent out of the total income of about 50 crore guilders (Rs. 75 Crores).

The Sikhs of Batavia invited me to the local Gurudwara and after Ardas an address of welcome was presented to me. It is a matter of gratification to find that the Indians are happy and prosperous in this country.

The Dutch East Indies, which were situated on the highway between the centres of the civilizations of India and China, attracted the attention of Hindu navigators who brought their religion, together with many social institutions connected with this, nearly 2,000 years ago, and were responsible for the high state of culture here Hindu kingdoms were established, and for many centuries they remained the mightiest power in the Archipelago.

In the 15th century, Islam penetrated into this land by Arab invasion and by peaceful conversion truimphed in Java. The Hindus were driven to the island of Bali where Hinduism has been able to

maintain itself up to the present day. Batavia was captured in 1916 by Jan Pieterzoen Coen, when the foundation stone of the Dutch domination over this land was laid. The Dutch power was cansolidated in such a way in subsequent years that the Dutch East Indies are no longer colonies of Holland, but a part of the Dutch Kingdom The *lingua franca* is Malay, which is the most widely spoken language. Both Dutch and Malay are used in official correspondence though Sundanese and Madurese are also used as provincial dialects

Buitenzorg.

I left Batavia on the 12th of September for Buitenzorg (meaning a city "without care" on account of its salubrious climate, beautiful scenery and pleasant walks). It is situated at an elevation of 800 feet, and though a small town, is the permanant residence of the Governor-General The celebrated Botanical Gardens were laid out in 1817. The avenues of stately Kanary trees, the lovely Victoria Regia, gigantic Bamboo trees which form an arc 100 feet above, a lovely pool with a rare type of

tion of 1925 and became a possession, and at the same time its name was officially changed from the Dutch East Indies to Netherland India ; the designation "East" being no longer necessary to differentiate it from the Netherland West Indies which through the same Act were named Surinam and Curacao. Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is the sovereign, and administers the country through the medium of the Minister of Colonies and the Governor-General, the latter being her direct representative in this country. The Governor-General is assisted in his whole work by the Council of Netherland India, consisting of a Vice-President and six ordinary members Among the ordinary members are included two Bhumi-Putras (a Sanskrit word meaning "Sons of the Land" *i. e* native). As a deliberative and advisory body a Volksraad (Peoples' Council) has been instituted. At the head of each province is a Governor, who is assisted by Residents and Assistant Residents (like Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in India). The indigenous population is more or less under the immediate control of a



Boemi-Poetra of a noble rank, who is appointed by the Government as Regent and who forms the link connecting the Government and the populace.

Bandoeng.

On the 15th of September, I motored to Bandoeng. The drive along this route is full of charm The journey offers a panorama of typical Javanese scenery, rice fields with their terraced irrigation system, fields of Pea-nuts and Tapioca trees. At frequent intervals, villages with their picturesque thatched dwellings add to the charm of the place. After about three hours' fascinating drive through various sceneries we found ourselves in Bandoeng, "the mountain city of Netherland India" which has the prospects of being proclaimed some day the capital of Netherland India, possessing as it does, all the qualities and requirements which a capital should have It is the seat of the Commander-in-Chief and the War Office. Here is stationed the most important military garrison, and it has several educational institutions including the Technical College for Civil Engineers which is

in no way inferior to any in Europe. It is built after the Sumatrian style of architecture.

It was here that H R. H. Prince Paribata of Siam (the exiled brother of the present king of Siam) and the Princess entertained me to a luncheon party at Hotel Homann After the Coup d'Etat of last year in Siam when the people demanded from King Prajadepak some changes in the system of Government, some of the Princes of the Royal House, who were occupying important posts in the State had to leave Siam. Prince Paribata, who was Minister of War in the last regime, narrated to us at lunch most interesting events that happened during that revolution, when the people without any bloodshed wrested many important political rights from the Crown.

I put up at the Preanger Hotel, which is denominated from the province of Preanger which means "central". The Indian community of the place held an imposing reception in my honour, and entertained me to tea and presented me with an address of welcome.

The Radio Station of Bandoeng is one of the most powerful in the world, and stands at a height of 4,400 ft. I was able to telephone to my eldest son the Tikka Raja in Paris, and for several minutes I conversed with him very distinctly at a distance of more than 11,000 miles, and it appeared as if we were talking from a distance of a yard. I hope that the long cherished desire in India for a radio telephone installation will soon materialise.

Bandoeng is the capital of the Preanger Agency, and is situated at a height of 2,300 ft. and its population is more than 1,00,000 out of which 20,000 are Europeans.

My visit to the aerodrome was very interesting. It is from here that every Thursday aeroplanes carrying mails and passengers leave for Europe passing through Calcutta and Jodhpur in India On one of these planes of the Fokker Company piloted by Captain Tepas, I had the thrill of flying for half an hour over Bandoeng and its suburbs at the height of 6,000 ft. There are several hundred Indians in Bandoeng including some from my State, trading

in the city but they have not the status of Europeans although the Japanese and the Siamese have that status. The Hindus, Mohammedans and Sikhs live together like brothers without any tinge of religious animosity. I also visited an exhibition of local industries organised on a small scale. I went round a Quinine factory and witnessed the *entire process of manufacture beginning from the* barking of the Cinchona tree to the finished product of snow-white tabloids of Quinine. Java supplies 90 per cent. of the world's quinine consumption.

The European quarters of Bandoeng are situated outside the town, and are very nicely built in the midst of beautiful gardens. I stopped at the Preanger Hotel for about two weeks, and must pay my tribute to its excellent management.

Garoet.

After Bandoeng our next place of halt was Garoet where I stayed in a beautiful Hotel known as "Grand Hotel Ngamplang" situated at an

elevation of 3,000 feet with a superb view of the volcanoes and high mountains all round. At one time it was one of the best Hospitals in Java. The climate is ideal, the temperature ranging in the day and night between 70 and 75 degrees. Bathing in the swimming pool of hot water at a temperature of about 80 degrees from sulphuric springs is most enjoyable and health-giving. The swimming pool is nicely laid out, and rooms on the spring can be let for a few days, where meals can also be had to order. I visited a beautiful lake in the Bandoeng Valley which is surrounded by high mountains. I also saw an active Volcano not far from here, in whose neighbourhood I lunched at the Radio Hotel. A special lunch was arranged for me by the Hotel Manager who himself took me to show this Volcano The principal dish of a typical Javanese dinner is Rystafel which consists of boilt rice, all sorts of odd meats, fish, and chutneys etc. Here I had the occasion also to visit a tea factory which was grand and uptodate and electrically fitted.

Sourabaya.

On the 4th of October, I left Garoet by train

for Sourabaya where I reached at 7 in the evening. From Garoet I was to visit the two most important Principalities of Java—Solokarta and Djocjakarta. The rulers of these states whose titles are Susuhunun (Emperor) and Sultan respectively extended to me invitations to evening parties and lunches in their Kratons, but partly on account of the unbearable heat in the plains and partly owing to the fact that I had already visited these Principalities 29 years ago, I had to refuse the invitations most reluctantly.

There are four Principalities in central Java and combined together they are called "Vorstenlanden," and are the last remains of the once celebrated kingdom of Mataram. Susuhunun and the Sultan reside in Kratons, which are cities in themselves surrounded by high walls, containing about 15,000 souls over whom they have complete sovereignty. The sovereignty over the other parts of their State, was transferred to the Dutch in 1749, and in lieu thereof the rulers received annual sums out of the revenues of their States, collected by the

Governors of the Dutch Government who were called the Sovereign's "elder brothers". Whenever the Susuhunun and the Sultan go out on an official visit they ride in beautifully carved gilded coaches with European coachmen escorted by large troops of their own mounted attendants and Dutch cavalry.

The Railway journey from Garoet to Sourabaya is most fatiguing but through the courtesy of the Dutch Government who placed a saloon car at my disposal, the tiresome part of the wholeday journey in the terrific heat was minimised to a large extent. On my arrival in Sourabaya I was received by the Dutch Resident and a large number of my own countrymen who loaded me with beautiful garlands and invited me on my return from Nongkodjadjar to a large tea party in their club. I stopped at the Oranje Hotel. Sourabaya is the second largest town in Java, with a population of over 2,50,000 inhabitants out of which there are about 23,000 Europeans and a large number of Chinese The city has large broad



Market Scene in Bali.

manner while the dancing girls chant extracts from the epic poems chiefly from Mahabharta and Ramayana. The movements of the dance are slow and graceful relying more upon swinging of the body and movements of the arms, fingers and head than upon the action of the feet. The costume is a beautiful and tight sarong, a silken corsage and a long scarf accross the body. After dinner we were taken to see boxing matches; the match between a Dutchman and a Javanese created great excitement among spectators numbering thousands.

As the heat was intense in Sourabaya, I motored up on the 7th October to Nongkodjadjar, situated above 4,000 feet where the climate was ideal and delicious, warm and pleasant, sunshine lasting all day long This place is a haven of rest, and a more peaceful and divine spot it would be hard to find At a distance of two hours' drive is a big sugar factory owned by a wealthy Chinese who received me in his impeccably clean house and showed me round the factory. I saw the whole process, how the sugar cane is taken by narrow-gauge railways to the factory and how it is crushed, boiled and

purified. Java ranks in world's production of sugar next to Cuba, but on account of the general economic depression about half of the factories were closed down. As far as the eye can see there is nothing but vegetation all round; the plains and hill-sides are covered with sugarcane, tapioca and coffee plants and maize fields which make the country one of the richest among the countries of the world, and this is what about the first century attracted the attention of the Hindu kings who sent expedition after expedition to possess these islands and afterwards established mighty kingdoms there.

The hotel in Nongkodjadjar comprises isolated bungalows each with two or three bedrooms, and I very much liked this scheme of accommodation.

Bali.

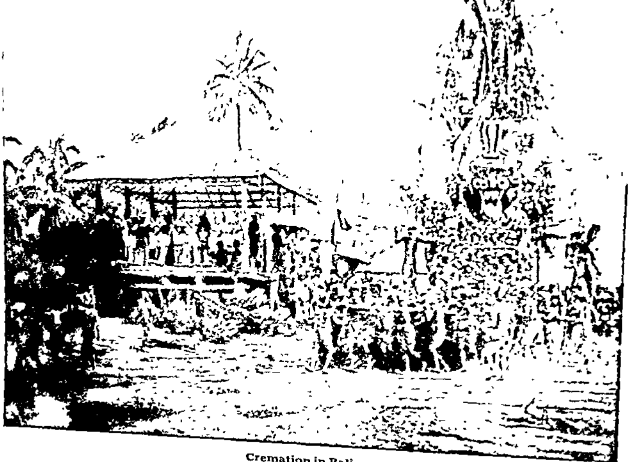
On the 12th of October I returned to Sourabaya in the evening. Next day at 5 P. M. I sailed for Bali in a small 1,500 tonner. The crossing was uneventful excepting that hundreds of fighting cocks which were being imported to Bali for the

national sport made sleep impossible by their continuous war-like clucking the whole night. At daybreak we found ourselves in Bulelung where I was met by the Dutch Officials, and immediately afterwords we proceeded by motor cars to Dan Pasar, the most important town in Bali and reached there in about three hours after a short halt at Singoraja for lunch, which is the official residence of the Chief Resident of Bali. The scenery on the way was remarkably beautiful. As far as one could cast his glance nothing but green clothed the earth all round and this is what has made Bali one of the wealthiest islands *per capita* in the world. *Due to* the richness of the soil, a Balinese by working four months a year can produce all he needs for his wants and those of his family.

The islands of Bali and Lombok have an area of about 5,000 square miles with a population of one million and a half. These are the only islands on the Archipelago where Hindu religion is practised, though in a corrupted form. The religion there is a mixture of Animism and Hinduism, with old

aboriginal beliefs in mountain, river and lake spirits. As in India, some Balinese worship Vishnu and others Shiva and Durga and in each village there is a temple in which the villagers gather for religious ceremonies, temple dancing and musical shows. Hindus migrated to this island about the 13th century when they were driven out by the Moslems from Java, and since then they have remained in the island keeping their individuality, their customs, their culture and religion.

It was in 1597 that they first came in contact with the Dutch navigators Expeditions were sent by the Dutch Government to conquer Bali but it was not till 1906 that the Dutch broke down all resistence after a bloody fight with the principal chiefs of Bali and it was then that the Dewa Agoeng of Kloeng Koeng, the supreme Lord of Bali, with his followers and ladies of his palace made a last effort with spears, arrows and kriss (dagger) to resist with death the invasion of the Dutch, and perished in the battle-field along with his kith and kin, and thus left the Dutch power supreme in Bali. Some



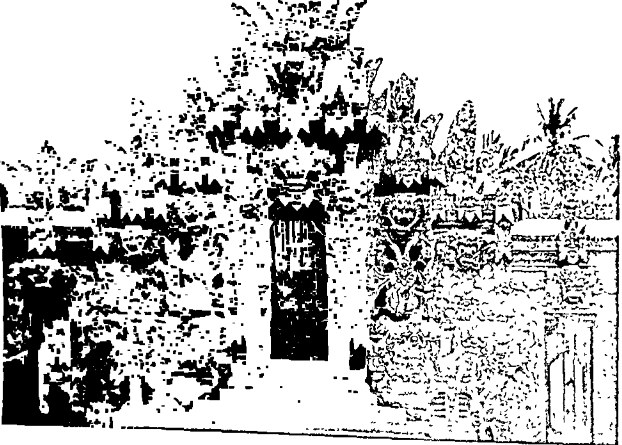
Cremation in Bali

of the descendants of these once gmhity kings are appointed now as Regents in the service of the Dutch Government. Anang Agong a descendant of the old kings of Bali gave a dinner party in my honour at his residence to which he also invited Dutch officials to meet me.

The Balinese are a fascinating race, cheerful and friendly. The women are modest, gentle and fearless. Here in Bali shut out from the world by the iron-bound coast, simplicity of character and nonchalance are still the vigorous possessions of these people. The Balinese do very little work for a living, spend their leisure in the practice of highly sophisticated arts and religious ceremonies. They make their living by ploughing rice fields, tending cattle and herding ducks and they know nothing of passion, love or hatred, and when the end comes they leave this world with no remorse. They are strangers to the vice of drunkenness, libertinism and conjugal infidelity. Cultivating the fields, pounding the rice, working the looms, stamping cloth, playing games, walking, running and swimm-

ing, all in beautiful native rhythm, makes one realise that here is the real cult of love, and that these people have set up no barriers against the joy of life. Their motto is "Do not do to-day what you can put off till tomorrow". When it comes to the necessities of civilization such as cultivating by machinery and factory-made products they simply are not interested.

Cock-fighting is their national sport and is the surviving reminiscence of blood sacrifice. Two roosters are brought in the field and their spurs are tied with blades sharp like a surgeon's knife, instead of gloves. Umpires are appointed, and as in boxing bouts rounds are counted. These cocks face each other and attack most ferociously, and often one of them is killed by the dashing gaff (lancet) of the other. The enthusiasm at these meetings rises to a very high pitch owing to the fact that heavy bets are exchanged amongst the spectators. As I did not wish to see these birds die in a battle, at my request the Dutch authorities arranged a fight without gaffs to the great disappointment of



Front of a temple in Bali.

the huge crowd gathered around this fight, as Lahu Gati (blood sacrifice) is an essential and vital religious part of the sport.

There are no railways in Bali. The Dutch Government has made smooth asphalted roads. The Balinese still use books written on the leaves of Palmyra (Lontor plant) growing in profusion in East Bali. These books contain the epic poems of Ramayana and Mahabharata in old Sanskrit, as well as the Vedas Recently the Dutch Government has opened three or four small schools in the island. Sati was practised up till the beginning of this century but this evil custom has been stopped by law now. There are four castes as in India, such as Brahmanas, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, and Shudras but the compartments of caste are not so water-tight and rigid as in India, and in reality the people are democratic in the true sense of the word. The majority of women go about with the upper part of their bodies bared, but the standard of morality of the Balinese of both sexes is unquestionably irreproachable. There is a magnificent temple in Dan Pasar

in front of which religious dances of various types are conducted by groups of male and female temple dancers gorgeously attired in ceremonious apparel relevant to the occasion The Balinese market is a very interesting affair where sundry commodities of native production are bought and sold.

On the 18th of October, I returned to Buleung and lunched at Kintamani, a small but picturesque village standing at an elevation of 6,000 feet, on the brink of a crystal lake that adjoins a volcano, and the same evening at 5 P. M. I sailed for Sourabaya and reached there next morning. Having spent one night in Sourabaya I left next day for Songoriti which is situated at an elevation of about 4,000 feet.

I took up my residence at Bath Hotel and one night I went to Melang for dinner. It is quite a big and modern town not far from Songoriti.

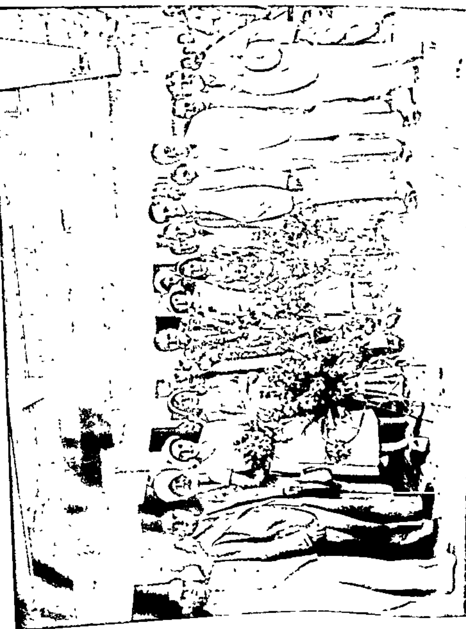
Songoriti is situated on a beautiful mountain and one evening I went on the top of one of the hills and took tea there.

MALAYA.

Singapore.

On the 25th October I left Songoriti for Sourabaya by motor car, and next day at about 5 in the evening sailed for Singapore, on return journey, on K. P. M. Steamer "Ophir". Next day our steamer called at Semarang. I went ashore on a motor Launch and drove in the car. After a few hour's sojourn in Semarang, we sailed and once again called at Batavia next morning. At 5 o'clock the same eveing we left Batavia and on the 31st of October reached Singapore in the morning. The A. D. C. of the Governor and the Private Secretary of the Colonial Secretary came on board the steamer to welcome me. I was also given a befitting reception by a large number of Sikhs, Hindus and Mussalmans who, amidst cheers, loaded me with garlands.

Singapore, the gate of the far East and famous for its naval base and floating docks, is the capital of the British Power in Malaya. The population is about 5,00,000, out of which two-thirds are



recently constructed at a heavy cost mutually borne by the Federated Malay States and Johore Government, connecting Singapore (which is an island) with the Johore and Malaya Peninsula.

Johore.

Johore is a beautiful city which I had visited 29 years ago, but since then the place is completely transformed There are beautifully laid out grounds and the roads are asphalted and are in perfect condition. Among other places, I visited the old Palace, the Council Hall, the Throne Room, Military Head-quarters, the Mosque, and clean and uptodate Hospital with European nurses and qualified surgeons and physicians. The Sultan himself with his Sultana (Parmesari) who is English by birth and whom the Sultan recently married, lives in a beautiful villa near his private domain of rubber plantations. The lunch at the Palace of the Crown Prince was attended by a large number of guests including the British General Advisor, Mr. Winstedt, the Prime Minister, Dato Abdul Hamid called Mantri Besar, and other British Advisors and

Malayan Ministers. The State band played during the lunch.

Johore, although it has only a population of 5,00,000 composed mainly of Malays, Chinese and Indians has a revenue of over a Crore and a half dollars a year, but previous to the slump in rubber, which is the chief source of income, the revenue was over two crores. The late Sultan Abubakar in *1895* gave *Johore* a constitution which is being scrupulously adhered to up till now The present Sultan draws a fixed allowance which he cannot increase without the consent of the Council of Ministers. The State has a Treaty of Alliance with the British Government, and has the services of a British General Advisor who is a link between the *High* Commissioner (*Governor of the Straits* Settlements) and the Sultan. There are European Judges and the heads of some departments, but the majority of Ministers are Malays. The power of revising death sentences lies with the Sultan advised by his Executive Council.

The Sultan has the right to confer State

decorations on the Britishers and other foreigners, and for his eldest son the title of His Highness is recognised by the British Government There are four Federated States viz Pahang, Negri Suhbilan, Perak and Selangore, the rulers of which are also called Sultans. Pahang has a salute of 17 guns and the other three have fifteen each.

From Johore I drove back to Singapore the same evening. Before leaving Singapore I was entertained, in the absence of the Governor Sir Cecil Clementi, by the Colonial Secretary and Deputy Governor, Sir John Scott, and lady Scott to a dinner party at Government House, and I was accompanied by members of my staff.

On the 3rd of November, we sailed for Calcutta by S. S. "Talma" of the Opear Line of British India Company. The Talma was a very neat and light boat of 10,000 tons, and our next halt was Port Swettenham and thereafter we called at Penang where I was again greeted by a huge crowd of Indians who took me to lunch at the Spring Tide Hotel, and afterwards to the Indian Association.

At 5 in the afternoon, we sailed and reached Calcutta on the 10th of November at noon. Thus happily ended a most interesting and instructive trip of two months and a half in Sumatra, Java, Bali and Malaya Peninsula. I shall ever cherish the most vivid memories of charming sceneries seen as if through a kalaedoscope.